



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 390

February Session, 2018

Substitute Senate Bill No. 363

Senate, April 10, 2018

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist. and SEN. BOUCHER of the 26th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING A DEFINITION OF IMMUNIZATION RECORDS
RELATED ABSENCE AND ITS EXCLUSION FROM THE
CALCULATION OF A SCHOOL OR DISTRICT'S CHRONIC
ABSENTEEISM RATE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-198b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2018*):

3 On or before July 1, 2012, the State Board of Education shall define
4 "excused absence" and "unexcused absence", [and] on or before
5 January 1, 2016, the State Board of Education shall define "disciplinary
6 absence" [for use by local] and on or before July 1, 2019, the State Board
7 of Education shall define "immunization records related absence"
8 concerning the failure or inability of a parent or guardian to submit a
9 child's immunization records to a local or regional board of education
10 in violation of section 10-204a. Local and regional boards of education
11 shall use such definitions for the [purposes] purpose of carrying out

12 the provisions of section 10-198a, reporting truancy, pursuant to
13 subsection (c) of section 10-220, and calculating the district chronic
14 absenteeism rate and the school chronic absenteeism rate pursuant to
15 section 10-198c, as amended by this act.

16 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-198c of the 2018 supplement to
17 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
18 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2018*):

19 (a) As used in this section:

20 (1) "Chronically absent child" means a child who is enrolled in a
21 school under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education
22 and whose total number of absences at any time during a school year
23 is equal to or greater than ten per cent of the total number of days that
24 such student has been enrolled at such school during such school year;

25 (2) "Absence" means an excused absence, unexcused absence or
26 disciplinary absence, as those terms are defined by the State Board of
27 Education pursuant to section 10-198b, as amended by this act.
28 "Absence" does not include an immunization records related absence,
29 as defined by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-198b,
30 as amended by this act;

31 (3) "District chronic absenteeism rate" means the total number of
32 chronically absent children under the jurisdiction of a local or regional
33 board of education in the previous school year divided by the total
34 number of children under the jurisdiction of such board for such
35 school year; and

36 (4) "School chronic absenteeism rate" means the total number of
37 chronically absent children for a school in the previous school year
38 divided by the total number of children enrolled in such school for
39 such school year.

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| <p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p> |
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|-----------|---------------------|------------|
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2018</i> | 10-198b |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2018</i> | 10-198c(a) |

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Throughout the bill, references to "immunization records absence" were replaced with "immunization records related absence" for clarity.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill, which makes procedural changes that exclude “immunization records related absences” from the absences counted to determine whether a student is chronically absent from public school, does not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 363*****AN ACT CONCERNING A DEFINITION OF IMMUNIZATION RECORDS RELATED ABSENCE AND ITS EXCLUSION FROM THE CALCULATION OF A SCHOOL OR DISTRICT'S CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM RATE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill excludes “immunization records related absences” from the absences counted to determine whether a student is chronically absent from public school. Under current law, if a student’s excused, unexcused, and disciplinary absences total 10% or more of the total enrollment days, then the student is chronically absent. The law requires schools and districts with certain rates of chronically absent students to undertake intervention efforts to reduce these rates.

Additionally, the bill requires the State Board of Education to define the term “immunization records related absence” by July 1, 2019, relating to a parent or guardian’s failure to submit a student’s immunization records to a local or regional board of education as required by law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

BACKGROUND***Immunization Requirement for School Enrollment***

By law, local and regional boards of education must require students to be immunized against various communicable diseases as required by the Department of Public Health’s active immunization schedule in order to enroll in school. The law allows for (1) an exemption from this requirement on religious grounds or due to a potential adverse medical reaction (2) a temporary waiver from this requirement in the event of a nationwide vaccine shortage (CGS § 10-

204a).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/23/2018)